

CLAIMS

That which is claimed:

1. A method comprising:
 - (a) receiving a search query;
 - (b) determining whether the search query has been previously entered;
 - (c) if the search query has been previously entered,
 - (i) retrieving a previously stored result set; and
 - (ii) determining whether at least a portion of the previously stored result set meets at least one condition; and
 - (d) if the at least a portion of the previously stored result set is determined to meet the at least one condition, outputting the portion of the previously stored result set.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein (b) determining whether a search query has been previously entered comprises comparing the search query to a list of previously entered search queries.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether at least a portion of the previously stored result set meets at least one condition comprises determining at least one of the following: determining the validity of a portion of the result set, determining that a portion of the result set is new, determining that a portion of the result set includes a change, determining that a new article exists in a category of the result set, determining that a new article has been received in a category of the result set, determining that an article has been changed in the result set, determining that a new e-mail has been received

in a category of the result set, determining that a new e-mail has been sent in a category of the result set, determining that a new web page has been received in a category of the result set, determining that a web page has been changed in a category of the result set, determining that a new document has been received in a category of the result set, and determining that a new document has been generated in a category of the result set.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether at least a portion of the previously stored result set meets at least one condition comprises determining whether a preset amount of time has elapsed from a time associated with the result set.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether at least a portion of the previously stored result set meets at least one condition comprises determining whether a preset amount of time has elapsed from a date associated with the result set.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving a previously stored result set comprises at least one of the following: retrieving a result set from an optical disc, retrieving a result set from a hard drive, retrieving a result set from an external data storage medium, retrieving a result set from an external data storage reader, and retrieving a result set from a data store on the client-side.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein (a) receiving a search query comprises at least one of the following: receiving a search query from a user operating an offline client-side device, receiving a search query from a user operating an online client-side device.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the previously stored result set comprises at least one of the following: client-side articles, and network articles.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the search query comprises at least one of the following: an implicit query, an explicit query, both an implicit query and an explicit query.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the previously stored result set comprises at least one of the following: a real-time event, a historical event, an indexable event, a non-indexable event.

11. A method comprising:

- (a) receiving a search query;
- (b) determining whether the search query has been previously entered;
- (c) if the search query has not been previously entered, receiving a result set;
- (d) storing the result set and associated search query in an offline-accessible data store; and
- (e) indexing the result set and associated search query for subsequent retrieval of the result set.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

- (f) determining expiration data for the result set.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein determining whether the search query has been previously entered comprises comparing the search query to a list of previously entered search queries.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein receiving a result set comprises performing a search for articles in response to the search query.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein storing the result set and associated search query in an offline-accessible data store comprises at least one of the following: storing the result set on an optical disc, storing the result set on a hard drive, storing the result set on an external data storage medium, storing the result set on an external data storage reader, and storing the result set on a data store on the client-side.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein (f) determining expiration data for the result set comprises determining expiration data for at least a portion of the result set, and displaying the expiration data for the at least a portion of the result set.

17. A computer-readable medium containing program code, comprising:

- (a) program code for receiving a search query;
- (b) program code for determining whether a search query has been previously entered;

(c) program code for if the search query has been previously entered, retrieving a result set from an offline data store and determining whether at least a portion of the result set meets at least one condition; and

(d) program code for if the at least a portion of the result set meets the at least one condition, outputting the portion of the previously stored result set.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein (b) program code for determining whether a search query has been previously entered comprises program code for comparing the search query to a list of previously entered search queries.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein (c) program code for if the search query has been previously entered, retrieving a result set from an offline data store and determining whether at least a portion of the result set meets at least one condition comprises program code for determining at least one of the following:
determining the validity of a portion of the result set, determining that a portion of the result set is new, determining that a portion of the result set includes a change, determining that a new article exists in a category of the result set, determining that a new article has been received in a category of the result set, determining that an article has been changed in the result set, determining that a new e-mail has been received in a category of the result set, determining that a new e-mail has been sent in a category of the result set, determining that a new web page has been received in a category of the result set, determining that a web page has been changed in a category of the result set,

determining that a new document has been received in a category of the result set, and
determining that a new document has been generated in a category of the result set.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein (c) program code for if the search query has been previously entered, retrieving a result set from an offline data store and determining whether at least a portion of the result set meets at least one condition comprises program code for determining whether a preset amount of time has elapsed from a time associated with the result set.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein (c) program code for if the search query has been previously entered, retrieving a result set from an offline data store and determining whether at least a portion of the result set meets at least one condition comprises program code for determining whether a preset amount of time has elapsed from a date associated with the result set.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein (d) program code for if the search query has been previously entered, retrieving a result set from an offline data store and determining whether at least a portion of the result set meets at least one condition comprises at least one of the following: program code for retrieving a result set from an optical disc, program code for retrieving a result set from a hard drive, program code for retrieving a result set from an external data storage medium, program code for retrieving a result set from an external data storage reader, and program code for retrieving a result set from a data store on the client-side.

23. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein (a) program code for receiving a search query comprises at least one of the following: program code for receiving a search query from a user operating an offline client-side device, program code for receiving a search query from a user operating an online client-side device.

24. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the previously stored result set comprises at least one of the following: client-side articles, and network articles.

25. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the search query comprises at least one of the following: an implicit query, an explicit query, both an implicit query and an explicit query.

26. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the previously stored result set comprises at least one of the following: a real-time event, a historical event, an indexable event, a non-indexable event.

27. A computer-readable medium containing program code, comprising:

- (a) program code for receiving a search query;
- (b) program code for determining whether the search query has been previously entered;
- (c) program code for if the search query has not been previously entered, receiving a result set;

(d) program code for storing the result set and associated search query in an offline-accessible data store; and

(e) program code for indexing the result set and associated search query for subsequent retrieval of the result set.

28. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, further comprising:

(f) program code for determining expiration data for the result set.

29. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein (b) program code for determining whether the search query has been previously entered comprises program code for comparing the search query to a list of previously entered search queries.

30. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein (c) program code for if the search query has not been previously entered, receiving a result set comprises program code for performing a search for articles in response to the search query.

31. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein (d) program code for storing the result set and associated search query in an offline-accessible data store comprises at least one of the following: program code for storing the result set on an optical disc, program code for storing the result set on a hard drive, program code for storing the result set on an external data storage medium, program code for storing the result set on an external data storage reader, and program code for storing the result set on a data store on the client-side.

32. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein (f) program code determining expiration data for the result set comprises program code for determining expiration data for at least a portion of the result set, and program code for displaying the expiration data for the at least a portion of the result set.

33. A method comprising:

- (a) receiving a request for an article in a result set from a client device, the article accessible via a network;
- (b) determining whether the article is stored in an offline-accessible data store associated with the client device; and
- (c) if the article is stored in an offline-accessible data store, determining whether the article meets at least one condition;
- (d) if the article meets at least one condition, retrieving the article from the offline-accessible data store;
- (e) if the article does not meet at least one condition, retrieving the article via the network;
- (f) if the article is not stored in the offline-accessible data store, retrieving the article via the network; and
- (g) outputting the article on the client device.

34. A method comprising:

- (a) receiving a search query;

- (b) determining whether the search query has been previously entered;
- (c) if the search query has not been previously entered,
 - (i) receiving a result set;
 - (ii) storing the result set in an offline-accessible data store; and
 - (iii) indexing the result set for subsequent retrieval; and
- (d) if the search query has been previously entered,
 - (i) determining whether at least a portion of the previously stored result set meets at least one condition;
 - (ii) if the at least a portion of the previously stored result set meets at least one condition, outputting the portion of the previously stored result set; and
 - (iii) if the at least a portion of the previously stored result set does not meet the at least one condition,
 - (1) receiving a result set;
 - (2) storing the result set in an offline-accessible data store; and
 - (3) indexing the result set for subsequent retrieval.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein determining whether a search query has been previously entered comprises comparing the search query to a list of previously entered search queries.

36. The method of claim 34, wherein determining whether at least a portion of the previously stored result set meets at least one condition comprises determining at least one of the following: determining the validity of a portion of the result set, determining

that a portion of the result set is new, determining that a portion of the result set includes a change, determining that a new article exists in a category of the result set, determining that a new article has been received in a category of the result set, determining that an article has been changed in the result set, determining that a new email has been received in a category of the result set, determining that a new email has been sent in a category of the result set, determining that a new web page has been received in a category of the result set, determining that a web page has been changed in a category of the result set, determining that a new document has been received in a category of the result set, and determining that a new document has been generated in a category of the result set.